Delusions of Grand-cue-deur

For my story, I chose to revolve my comic around a cue ball with severe delusions of grandeur. The primary conflict emanates from the fact that the cue ball feels left out, and ostracized by the other balls, due to the fact that it is physically different from all the other balls. This has lead the cue ball to retreat into it’s own world, and act as a mere observer to the rest of the balls. He constantly engages in soliloquies with himself, and has established a delusion of supremacy within his own mind. This delusion is what lays premise for my comic. The cue ball is full of narrative references to social commentary (“subliminal semantics”), and contextual humor.

As defined by McCloud, comics are narratives that present a story through images and the use of “sequential art”. Using RGB colors on Illustrator, my words and images were chosen according to the additive process defined by McCloud, where words amplify the panel image and vice versa. The cue ball’s dialogue is always isolated in a yellow box, as to emphasize the significance and contrast of his character.I have chosen to represent my panel sequences using common transition styles, especially moment-to-moment, action-to-action, and subject-to-subject. The first three panels with the ball describing himself, would be an example of a subject-to-subject transition.

The panels are short, and follow a decisive pattern. This effectively leaves very little room for error, with respect to the audience formulating closure in between the panels. Closure is of supreme importance, as it is vital that the audience is following the thought pattern of the author. This is where I utilized the gutter in order to better emphasize my panels.“The gutter is the space between where things happen, human imagination comes into play”. Specific attention was paid to the gutters with this in mind, allowing the reader adequate space and room to formulate his own version of what happens in between the panels.

I personified the balls as much as I could, without sacrificing the integrity of the original pool ball image. Which is why I chose to display expressions solely through black beady eyes, and eyebrows. This alludes to McCloud’s notion that “Our identities and awareness are invested in many inanimate objects such as clothes which can cause transformations in the way others see us and the way we see ourselves.” By applying humanistic elements to the balls, I’ve conjured up a subtle connection between the reader and the balls. As the reader is bound to identify with one of the many, humanly flaws on display.